

who visit from around the country. The Second Avenue Subway will ease the incredibly overcrowded Lexington Avenue subway line, which is one of the busiest in the Nation. On day one, the Second Avenue Subway will carry nearly 200,000 riders, reducing crowding on the Lex line by 13 percent. I am also pleased that the bill includes funding for the East Side Connector, which when completed will bring approximately 160,000 new passengers, including 5,000 residents of western Queens, into Grand Central Station.

Finally, I support the provisions in the bill to increase funding for Section 8 housing vouchers, the HOPE VI program, and the Community Development Block Grant, and to restore the President's proposed cuts to housing for the disabled and the elderly. This legislation addresses the needs of our constituents, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORNERSTONE LAYING OF THE PILGRIM MONUMENT IN PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commemorate an important historical milestone in America's history, the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, MA.

The Pilgrims arrived on our shores with their many hopes and dreams; they worked hard and suffered greatly in order to fulfill them. Now, people around the country, from schoolchildren studying them as part of their American history curriculum to families gathering together on the fourth Thursday of every November in the spirit of thankfulness, the story of the Pilgrims and America's First Thanksgiving is enshrined in our collective memory. On Monday, August 20, 2007, a variety of friends and admirers will gather at the Pilgrim Monument to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Monument's cornerstone in 1907.

The 252-foot-tall Pilgrim Memorial Monument was constructed between 1907 and 1910 to commemorate the first landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor in 1620. It was built by the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, which was established by a special act of the Massachusetts legislature on February 29, 1892, to raise funds to build the Monument. The Association raised \$92,000 in federal, state and private funds, while the land was donated by the town of Provincetown. The cornerstone of the Monument was laid on August 20, 1907 at a ceremony attended by President Theodore Roosevelt, and the completed Monument was dedicated in 1910 at a ceremony attended by President William Howard Taft.

Since its completion in 1910, the Monument has become a symbol of the role Provincetown played in the early history of our country. In the century since its construction, the Monument has attracted millions of visitors from across the United States and around the

world. The Provincetown Museum has excelled in its mission of detailing not only the events surrounding the Pilgrims' first landfall but also the place Provincetown occupies in New England's cultural and maritime history.

On August 20, 2007, a host of well wishers will join the entire Provincetown community in a parade and gathering at the Monument to commemorate its place in Massachusetts' and America's history. And it is with equal pleasure that I enter this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that this milestone is officially recognized and recorded in the official history of the United States of America.

THE MERCED COUNTY VFW HONOR GUARD

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and gratitude that I rise today to recognize the Merced County VFW Honor Guard for their many years of selfless service on behalf of their fellow veterans of the United States of America. I am particularly honored to recognize this team of individuals as they served as Honor Guard at the burial service of my own father, Manuel Cardoza, who served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II.

For many years, members of the Winton VFW Post #7792, the Atwater VFW Post #9946, and the Merced VFW Post #4327 worked together to help conduct proper burial services for our local veterans. These individuals have worked long hours and gruesome schedules in order to serve their fellow veterans. Within the last few years, they have averaged 157 burial services, dedicated 4511 man hours, and traveled more than 4800 miles each year.

I would like to take a moment to recite the names of the veterans who have dedicated their time, energy and resources to providing their fellow veterans with honorable burial services as members of the Honor Burial Team. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring those members of the Honor Guard who have gone before us: Louis Gonzales #9946, Paul Gunderson #7792, Ernie Dominquez #4327, Wyn Aguirre #9946, David Barrone #9946, John Aue #9946, Mel Hode #9946, Vern Kolander #7792, Bill and Evelyn Petrie #7792, Bill Butler #9946, Charles Hickman #9946, Frank and Mary Gaffney #9946, and Bryce Tillman #9946. And it is with great sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the current members of the Merced County Honor Guard: Commander Richard Clerkin #7792, Chaplain Ken Wenrich #7792, Honorary Chaplain Father Tom Timmings, Rifle Team Captain George Stroud #7792, Bugler Bill Dacus #4327, Quarter Master Don Dean #9946, Ray Baker #7792, Dick Darby #7792, Ernie Connor #7792, Judge Brown #7792, Gerald Dunker #7792, Byron McNamara #9946, Ken Henn #9946, John Douglas #9946, Bill Oliver #9946, Tony Castro #9946, David Loeser #9946, James Tyson #9946, Willie Kimoto #7792, and Ishmael Hernandez #9946.

Throughout our history, brave men and women have risked their lives to preserve

freedom for future generations. It is a tradition unlike any other. Each member of the United States Armed Forces is an inspiration to the American people in their patriotism, skill, and selfless dedication to the ideals that make this Nation great. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Merced County VFW Honor Guard for their service and for their selfless commitment to honoring their fellow veterans with the most appropriate and necessary military burial. I wholeheartedly extend my sincerest appreciation to each individual of this outstanding team. Thank you for serving our country with bravery and honor, and thank you for continuing to serve your fellow veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe the greatness of our country will not be measured by the number of tractors it produces. But rather, I believe the greatness of our country will be measured by the number of persons it feeds. I believe the greatness of our country will not be measured by the number of skyscrapers it builds. But rather, I believe the greatness of our country will be measured by the number of persons it shelters.

Today, more than three quarters of a million people are homeless on any given night. There are as many as 189,000 homeless persons with disabilities. More than 98,452 families are homeless. If we are to end homelessness, rather than just reduce it, we must provide our Nation with right tools to fight homelessness. If we are to end homelessness within 10 years, rather than just reduce it, we must ensure that we support the programs that work well. That rests in our ability to fully fund them so that they achieve their true potential.

That is why I am a proud co-sponsor of H. Res. 561, which recognizes the 20th anniversary of the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The McKinney-Vento programs have successfully provided housing (e.g., shelter, transitional housing) and supportive services to tens of thousands of men, women and children experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is an important asset in our battle against homelessness. I commend my colleague, Mr. SHAYS, for introducing this important resolution.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY, LADY BIRD JOHNSON

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Nation lost a beloved friend and one of its most dedicated environmentalists on Wednesday when Lady Bird Johnson passed away at the age of 94.